SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 5, 1917.

Mr. J. M. Johnston,
West 8th Street,
Upland, California.

My dear Mr. Johnston:

On my return from New York yesterday I found your package of Crassulaceae, and later on in the day I received your letter of August 27th. Your little package of plants is a very interesting one. The specimens have been well put up but, unfortunately, you did not put enough packing to protect them properly in the mails. You would get better results, too, if you would boil your specimens before putting them in the press, especially the leaves and stems. If they are dipped in boiling water for a few minutes the leaves dry quickly and remain on the stems; otherwise, as you know, it requires weeks for them to dry, and then they are not very satisfactory. Quite a number of the specimens you send me are still growing.

Unfortunately, your collection comes at a very critical time for me, for I am very busy reading proof on my Cactus book, and also preparing manuscript for a second book. However, if you will be patient with me, I will endeavor to name your collection , at least tentatively, in a very short time. I would like very much to have living plants of all these species, with the idea that we can use some of them for illustrations in the new Addisonia, which has just been started by the New York Botanical Garden. I am especially anxious for living specimens of the two species of Sedums and the Hasseanthus. These can be shipped in small boxes, if they are packed loosely in paper with holes in the box to allow proper ventilation. Your nos. 1644 and 1288 belong to the genus Sedum. 1292 and 1290 belong to the genus Hasseanthus. All the others belong to the genus Dudleya. Are these specimens intended as a gift for the National Herbarium?

I should be very glad, indeed, to identify, if possible, your Opuntia. I should prefer to have a living specimen of it, which should be packed in the manner which I recommend the sending of Crassulaceae. If you have a herbarium specimen, I would be glad to receive one, also; and any notes with regards to size of plant, color of flower, fruit, etc., will be helpful to me.

Yours very truly,

J N Rose

Associate Curator,
Division of Plants.